

**ABSTRACT**

Disclosed are compositions and processes for preparing polymeric materials having polymerizable units derived from at least one C<sub>8</sub> to C<sub>30</sub> alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer, and at least one chain branching unit. The presence of the chain branching unit surprisingly results in  
5 the polymeric composition having non-gelled polymer chains. The polymeric compositions are useful as additives for improving the melt strength of thermoplastic resins.

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